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# "Talking Frankly" about David Irving

## A Critical Analysis of David Irving's Statement on the Holocaust

*By Hadding Scott*

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## There were gassings at Auschwitz after all! (1:36:54 – 1:39:41)

Within Holocaust Revisionism, David Irving has been most consistent in his support for the findings of the *Leuchter Report*, which explained that the extant structures at Auschwitz-Birkenau (and Majdanek) could not have been used as homicidal cyanide gas-chambers. Auschwitz-Birkenau, at the time when Leuchter wrote his report, was represented as the most important site of mass-murder of Jews, with an alleged death-toll of 2.5 million Jews (and 1.5 million others) still claimed at that time (M.C. Vita, AP, 7 May 1985). Auschwitz also had great symbolic importance from having been featured in the NBC miniseries *Holocaust* (1978) which popularized the use of the word Holocaust as a proper noun. Thus, the most important claim of the Jewish Holocaust-legend was shown to be false by the *Leuchter Report*. It was especially David Irving's support for the findings of the *Leuchter Report*, which he republished in a glossy edition under his own Focal Point imprint, that caused Irving to be labeled a Holocaust Denier.

In 1988 it was evident that Leuchter's finding about Auschwitz had cast a shadow of doubt over the entire Holocaust-narrative for David Irving. In 1988 he used expressions like "six-million fake" and "the whole Holocaust mythology." Later, in a subtle softening of his position, he used the term "Holocaust legend." (This was a softening insofar as a legend is not necessarily a lie, nor even false.)

By 2009, however, David Irving has advanced so far in the effort to mitigate his heresy that he alleges *limited gassings* at Auschwitz. The claim necessarily pertains to structures that no longer exist, which Fred Leuchter consequently could not examine.

The Auschwitz "bunkers," also called the "white house" and the "red house," were rumored to have been sites of gassings, but according to revisionist Carlo Mattogno the stories about the white house and the red house vary to such a degree that the identification and location of those structures, and even their existence, is in doubt – although Irving speaks as if what the Auschwitz Museum designates as the locations of the white house and the red house were definitely correct.

As evidence for gassings in the Auschwitz bunkers, David Irving in 2009 adduces an account given by a former deputy-commandant of Auschwitz, Hans Aumeier, which Irving discovered in the British Records Office in 1992.

David Irving saw good reason for not trusting Aumeier's account when he discovered it. He wrote in his diary in June 1992:

> *"Finished reading file of interrogations and manuscript by one SS officer, Hans Aumeier, a high Auschwitz official. Once again, like Gerstein, his reports grow more lurid as the months progress. I wonder why? Beaten like Höss or was he finally telling the truth?"* (quoted in transcript of Irving-Lipstadt trial, 2 February 2000, also quoted by Guttenplan)

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Irving wrote essentially the same in a contemporary letter to Mark Weber, along with an exhortation that revisionists should analyze the file on Aumeier before the Holocaustians get hold of it:

> *“Working in the Public Record Office yesterday, I came across the 200 page handwritten memoirs, very similar in sequence to the Gerstein report versions of an SS officer, Aumeier, who was virtually Höss’s deputy. They have just been opened for research. He was held in a most brutal British prison camp, the London Cave* [Cage] *(the notorious Lieutenant Colonel A Scotland)... It becomes more lurid with each subsequent version. At first no gassings, then 50, then 15,000 total. Brute force by interrogators perhaps.”* (*Ibid.*)

Irving also discussed the confession briefly in an endnote from his 1995 tome about the IMT at Nuremberg, where he added this observation:

> *“The final manuscript (or fair copy) signed by Aumeier was pencilled in British Army style with all proper names in block letters.... Aumeier was extradited by the British to Poland and hanged.”* (Irving, *Nuremberg the Last Battle*, p. 534)

What Irving implies by observing the style in which the confession was written, is that Aumeier did not write it. The so-called document is a creation of the British government, not an authentic statement from Hans Aumeier, Irving implies.

Nonetheless, David Irving today relies on what he knows to be Aumeier’s tortured confession as evidence that Jews who could not be used for labor were gassed in Auschwitz’s white house and red house. Irving diverts attention from that problem by pretending that the real problem is whether the papers recording the tortured confession are genuine:

> *“So these gassings did occur, if you accept that these papers aren’t fake, and I don’t believe for a moment they are fake.”*

The question of course is not about whether the papers themselves are genuine; nobody doubts that CSDIC produced these documents. The question is whether the statements that they contain are accurate, because it is well known, and David Irving knows, that CSDIC extracted false confessions and compelled its prisoners to sign them.

At the time of the libel suit against Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books in 2000, the truth about the London Cage was not so well known. Irving’s statements to the court at that time about the torture of German prisoners in British custody consequently met with skepticism. In 2012, however, the fact that CSDIC tortured German prisoners and compelled them to sign false confessions became quite well known, with the appearance of Ian Cobain’s *Cruel Britannia: A Secret History of Torture*. Although Cobain does not specifically mention Aumeier, the book gives a general idea of what happened in the London Cage, and was favorably reviewed. David Irving's decision to pretend belief in Aumeier's confession was thus ill-fated.

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